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TO THE HONORABLE ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONS house of Parliament, and to the Committees, for Grieuances of the same house.

The humble petition of *Edward Hopkins*, *William Barwell*, *John Bellamy*, *Robert Filet*, *John Walter*, *Robert Wright*, and other Wharfingers in and neere the Cittie of London.

WHereas the petitioners and all others vsing Wharfes for sale of Fuell within and neere the Cittie of London, haue time out of minde had the vse of a competent number of Carts and Carres as necessarily incident to their trade, to carry wood and cole for the necessary vse of his Maiesties subiects in and about the said Citie, vntill some of the Woodmongers in *An.* 3. *Iac.* (without the consent of the rest) did not onely procure themselues to be incorporated by his Maiesties letters patents, with power to make ordinances for gouernment thereof, but also for their owne lucre, and to the intent to oppresse his Maiesties subiects and make a Monopoly thereof vpon pretence of better gouernment, haue by colour of the said Letters patents made ordinances, whereby they haue drawne the gouernment of Carres into their owne hands, and so prouided that neither Wharfinger nor other might vse a Carre without licence from the said Companie; and vpon such as had licence for vse thereof, laid an impoſition of 17. s. 4. d. *per annum*, and other great taxes, as sometimes 40 s. and at other times 4. *lib.* a man.

AND the said Companie hauing so setled their said gouernment, did denie the vse of Carres to diuers owners of ancient Wharfes vsing the trade of Woodmongers, and either sold them out to others for 40. and 50. lib. a Car-roome, or else did farme them for 10 s and 12. s. the weeke; by which meanes the said Car-roomes are appropriated to Tapsters, Ale-house-keepers, Scriueners, Hostlers, Bakers, and such like, not vsing themselues either Wharfe or Carre, and become priuate interests, and go as Chattels to Executours.

AND when Wharfingers (in case of necessitie) vsed any Carres for vse of their trade, themselues and their seruants haue at seuerall times beene (by colour of the said Letters patents) committed to prison by the Master and Wardens of the said Companie, and there detained sometimes 7 or 8 dayes; at other times their Carres haue beene by the said Companie or their ministers taken from them; and when they haue endeuoured by course of law to relieue themselues, they haue beene vnduly staid.

BY which vniust courses the petitioners and diuers others being free of the Cittie of London, haue beene most vniustly denied the free vse of Carres, and thereby hindred from vsing their said trade, and inforced either to buy diuers Car-roomes, or to farme them at the seuerall rates aforesaid, to the vtter vndoing of themselues, wiues and children, to the great inhansing and raising of the price of Fuell, and the great grieuance and oppression of his Maiesties subiects in and neere about the said Citie, and to the raising of the price of cariages, with many other inconueniences.

IN tender consideration whereof, and for that the said Grant (accompanied with ordinances as aforesaid) is not onely a Monopoly, but the execution thereof tends to depriue his Maiesties subiects of their libertie, by vnlawfull imprisonment, contrary to the great Charter of the Liberties of England, and to the hinderance of Legall proceedings and stop of Iustice for their goods vniustly and against law taken from them, and to the destruction of their trade, and is otherwise enormous and extreme grieuous to the petitioners and others his Maiesties subiects, and may with the like colour be put in execution against Brewers, Scauingers, and diuers other trades; and for that the petitioners are ready to make good each of the said generals, with diuers particulars of euery sort.

MAy it therefore please this honorably Assembly and high Counsell to take the premisses into consideration, and to appoint some time for the hearing thereof, and to take such course to reforme the said abuses, and punish the said offenders, as to iustice shall appertaine.

And the petitioners (as most bound) shall euer pray for the long continuance and happie prosperitie of this honorable Assembly, and all the members thereof, &c.

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Broadsides
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